



TITO PUENTE (1923-2000) was a noted Latin-American jazz and mambo bandleader and percussionist, who performed nearly continuously from 1937 to his death, interrupted only by a stint in the Navy. In 1993, Puente guest starred on *Sesame Street* in multiple segments, including one in which his dance music eventually wins over even Oscar the Grouch. Years later, he was parodied as Tito, the world's greatest timbale playing bat. His 1970 recordings of "No Voy A La Luna" and "Lindo Palomar" were used in *Sesame Street* film inserts of a Hispanic neighborhood.



RAY CHARLES (1930-2004) was a popular musician and singer of soul and R&B music. He was an inaugural inductee into the Rock 'N' Roll Hall of Fame.

1977: Appeared on *Sesame Street* to sing:

- "Oh, What a Beautiful Morning" (First: Episode 1077)
- "I Got a Song" (First: Episode 1109)

1989: Sang "Bein' Green" with a chorus of Muppet monsters on the TV special *Sesame Street: 20 and Still Counting*.

1991: Appeared on *Sesame Street* in two segments:

- the celebrity music video of "Monster in the Mirror"
- "The Alphabet Song," singing with Elmo, Telly, and the Kids. (First: Episode 2778)

1996: Appeared on *Sesame Street* to sing:

- "Believe in Yourself" (First: Episode 3473)
- "The Alphabet Song" (First: Episode 3526)



The **ALVIN AILEY** American Dance Theater is a New York-based dance company founded by Alvin Ailey in 1958.

Clive Thompson appeared on behalf of the group in a segment on *Sesame Street* (EKA: Episode 0752). The dance studio was later featured in a film insert (First: Episode 1716) in which a boy takes dance lessons from them.

In 2001, members of the company made multiple appearances on *Sesame Street*. The performers used dance to demonstrate various concepts but also to show that dance is a form of expression available to everyone. They demonstrated same and different (First: Episode 3945), displayed emotions through dance for Elmo (First: Episode 3947), and danced with children to classical music (First: Episode 3948).